

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (original) A system for joining two pipe sections together comprising:

a first horseshoe-shaped member which fits around and collars the bell end of a first PVC pipe and has tension chains extending therefrom;

a second member comprising a bull-plate which secures to the open end of a second PVD pipe and has second tension chains extending therefrom;

a lever mechanism to join the two chains together such that when the lever is turned in a first direction, the pipes are thrust together tightly.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A system for joining two pipes comprising:

a first PVC pipe having a bell-end;

a first horseshoe-shaped member which secures to the said bell-end of said a first PVC pipe, said horseshoe-shaped member having a plurality of chains extending therefrom, said plurality of chains being attached substantially radially opposite;

a second PVC pipe having an open end;

a second member comprising a bull-plate which secures to said the open end of said a second PVC pipe to be connected to said the first PVC pipe, said bull plate having at least two chains extending therefrom, said at least two chains being attached substantially radially opposite;

a lever mechanism configured to join the said first PVC pipe and said second PVC pipe two ends together such that the said lever mechanism affixes to said plurality of chains and said at least two chains each of the chains such that said plurality of chains the chain of the horseshoe-shaped member is are attached to a first side of said the lever mechanism and said at least two chains the second bull-plate chain is are attached to the a second side of the said lever mechanism, such that once said lever mechanism is thrust in a first direction, said first PVC pipe and said second PVC pipe the chains tighten and the pipes are trussed tightly together with an axially directed force.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said first PVC pipe is PVC pipe has a diameter in the range of eight inches to twelve inches.

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by McClure (4493139).

The Examiner has rejected Claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a) in light of several references. Claim 2 has been amended.